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Delegation speaks in support of Miki program

BY KEVIN VINK
 MVP Staff

Two residents and former mayor Brian Wittal spoke to council on Tuesday, Dec. 10 in support of the Miki Town student and cultural exchange program, speaking highly of the program and the opportunities that come with it.

Lee Hammond, who is also an RCMP officer currently working out of Hobbema, had a couple children who went through the student exchange program, and he said it is difficult to put a dollar value on the program.

"But what I look at is the impact on our youth in the community and how that makes these kids more accepting to different cultures," Hammond said to council.

"And we need to do that - we need to show our kids to accept different cultures."

Because his kids are not going to be involved in the program anymore due to their ages, he could easily dismiss the program, he added.

"But it's not the case. I would even fully support paying and helping for kids that can't afford to go. I'd like to see the town put in money for the kids whose parents can't afford it."

When the Japanese students come to town, they visit Westglen School, mainly spending time with grade 7 and 8 classes, and he said the atmosphere of the school changes for the better.

"It's amazing to see them play together and learn. I think we'd be doing ourselves a huge injustice in getting rid of this program," he noted.

"It's not a huge cost and I think it's a very valid program to keep going."

Braden Overwater participated in the program as a student, visiting Japan, and his family has hosted many students over the years as well, he said.

"It's really an amazing experience that can't be paralleled," said Overwater, mentioning the minimal to low number of youth programs available in town.

"When I heard the town was considering cutting another youth program...I was appalled. It's really an experience that you can't put a price on."

Although the town sends officials to visit with Miki Town officials and discuss economic opportunities and build relationships, the town has also facilitated the student exchange program, which Chinook's Edge School Division has not had a hand in, according to officials.

Hammond said because it's a community event when the town hosts delegates during their time here, and there are often a couple hundred people in attendance when the dinner is hosted at the memorial complex.

He added he has also met people from town at these events that he did not know before.

"It does bring the community together in a big way. You're always going to have people say they don't have kids or any interest in the program...but you can't look at everything as dollars - you've gotta see how it benefits the community as a whole."



READY FOR CHRISTMAS - Wes Thomas and Kailyn Bell, who played Joseph and Mary in Redeemer Lutheran Church's annual Nativity play, pose for a photo. The plays took place Saturday and Sunday evenings, December 14 and 15.

Overwater noted that because not many people are involved in either the exchange program or in participating, they don't see the impact directly.

He added town officials could raise awareness of the program through something like a Miki Town awareness week.

Former mayor Brian Wittal said it started out as a community exchange, not just a student exchange, and for the first year, Miki Town's

council even paid \$5,000 towards Didsbury's students trip there.

He said it will be a struggle to keep the program consistent if the town office wasn't involved with it, as staff are familiar with the program and how it works.

There's also some economic development potential tied to the program, though there is no guarantee that it will lead anywhere, he added.

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 Dec. 25, 26
 & Dec. 31



Kevin Vink/MVP Staff

A Didsbury firefighter pries open the panel where the electrical fire started on Wednesday, Dec. 18.

Van catches fire in Fas Gas parking lot

BY KEVIN VINK
MVP Staff

A potentially dangerous situation was averted last week, when an electrical fire started in a van that had just filled up at Fas Gas on Wednesday, Dec. 18.

Craig Martin, a firefighter with

the Didsbury Fire Department (DFD), said crews are not entirely sure as to the cause of the fire, though it was started by some sort of electrical issue in the van.

"We can determine the location, but with electrical fires it could be a number of things,"

said Martin.

Sheena Galvin, a passerby who happened to pull up behind the van, was heading into the shop when another customer who was leaving, pointed out that there was a fire in the back of the van.

She ran inside the building and got a fire extinguisher, then ran out and did what she could to get the fire put out.

"(The flames were) right to the roof," said Galvin.

"And I covered his Christmas gifts with that fire extinguisher stuff, but at least his car isn't totally toast. It's a bummer."

Martin said because of her quick action, firefighters only had to do some salvage and overhaul work to ensure the fire was out and would stay out.

"She put out most of the fire. She did a great job...especially with that location, it could have become something worse, so that was really great."

He said people who were already on scene did the right thing, ensuring the van was away from the fuel pumps and extinguishing the majority of the blaze.

"We could not have asked for anything better. They did everything right," he noted.

"Because that fire extinguisher was there and because they took the initiative to use it, they made something that could have been a bigger situation quite small, and they took care of the hazard right away."

Five firefighters came out to the incident with a command truck and a fire engine, and a second team was on standby, ready to rush over if they were needed, he added.

The man whose van caught fire was not able to comment, but his friend Mohammed Nikzad, whom the man was visiting in town, said that they had just been visiting at Nikzad's residence in Westhill Place.

"And he was out here in the town to get some stuff for himself," said Nikzad.

"He just filled up on gas and tried to drive away then all of a sudden the car just caught on fire in the back."

He was heading to Calgary before the incident, and unfortunately his trip had to be delayed.

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New hamper-collecting method deemed a success

BY KEVIN VINK
MVP Staff

The Christmas Helpers wrapped up last week with about 120 hampers full of food and over 200 gifts for families in need this year, according to officials.

Linda Sirm, one of the organizers, said the response to the new 'sponsor a hamper' program was "amazing."

"The response from the community was really positive towards the sponsor a hamper program this year, because those that decided to take on the project have been buying the food for one family, and they really enjoyed it for the most part," said Sirm.

Because of logistical issues, Sirm and Linda Regner, who both started the Christmas Helpers program, decided to change things up this year, letting community groups, clubs and families sponsor hampers, rather than collecting money and assembling the hampers themselves.

The response was very good, she said, with many stepping up to the plate to help out those less fortunate.

"(When they were) bringing the hampers

in (last Wednesday), you could really tell the excitement and they really, really liked it. I think it put more of a human touch, to the program."

She has also had many volunteers step up to help wrap up the hampers and gifts, and she said the community at large was very generous bringing in cash donations as well.

She wanted to thank everyone who participated in any way, and noted that the Christmas Angel program also got a lot of support.

"The toys people gave are really nice... The community support was overwhelming in all areas. From toys to food

to time wrapping. It was all really good."

Eighty of the 120 hampers were sponsored by the community. Lists of preferred food items were given out and items were brought to the Zion Evangelical Missionary Church. She added they are aiming to have all hampers sponsored next year.

"There's a lot of groundwork that's gotta happen to get the sponsorships, so next year we can use some of the work we did this year and just add on it, and we can fix anything that we noticed could be improved upon," she noted.

"We did it a different way this year and it worked for us."



Kevin Vink/MVP Staff
Scott Sinclair (seen left), manager and assistant coach of the Atom 1 Didsbury Ramblers, helps players from the team pack up food items for the hampers. The group bought enough goods for two hampers at AG Foods on Monday, Dec. 16.



Kevin Vink/MVP Staff
Terry Phillips, exalted ruler of the Didsbury Elks, gives a cheque for \$400 to Linda Sirm on behalf of the Elks.

Tri-Community Transit pilot project ending

BY KEVIN VINK
MVP Staff

Now that the Tri-Community Transit (TCT) pilot project will be ending on Dec. 31, Didsbury residents will have to find an alternative route to get to Calgary.

Although Carstairs will likely be continuing its transportation system directly through the Rockyview Regional Handibus Society (RRHS), Didsbury's municipal councillors do not seem to support the idea because of low ridership as well as the money that would be involved in subsidizing the program.

A delegation of past TCT users made a presentation to council last Tuesday, Dec. 10, saying that total ridership, counting each round trip as two one-way trips, was 165 in 2012, and was 149 in 2013, from January to September.

Carstairs has seen the most benefit, and Didsbury has only seen a ridership of 36 in 2012 and 44 between January and September 2013.

RRHS general manager Paul Siller said his company was asked to provide the services for TCT after the TCT directors found that they

would not have the necessary funding available to purchase buses.

Following the two-year pilot project, during which the RRHS operated in Didsbury, Carstairs and Cremona, he said it is no longer possible to offer the service without further subsidy.

"As the task force was trying to secure funding and so forth, it came apparent that certain municipalities were not that interested anymore, or were just lukewarm," said Siller.

"As I understand it, Carstairs was definitely

interested in continuing, and they asked us if they could get a service much like we do in the four municipalities we work with in the Rocky View County region, which is by a per capita arrangement."

He noted the RRHS charges about \$5.20 per capita, per municipality, also charging riders personally about \$30 per one-way ride.

If all municipalities in the county were willing to put down subsidy money for the service, RRHS would likely be able to provide full ser-

vices to the area, he added.

"But if only half of them get on board then that's only half the money."

The RRHS already covers Rocky View County, Chestermere, Cochrane and Crossfield, but because even Carstairs is so far away, he is unsure if the municipal subsidy will be able to cover the costs, but it is a good starting point, he said.

"Carstairs is definitely seeing benefit and value so they want to continue with it."

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will be closing its doors as of
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AD259
Was \$53,180 Sale **\$45,587**



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AD207
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AD372
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AD506
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TOWN OF DIDSBURY



Town Office: 8:30 am to 4:30 pm 403.335.3391
 Public Works: 8:00 am to 4:30 pm 403.335.8343
 Information Line 403.335.2030
 After Hours Pager 403.507.3624
 Didsbury Neighborhood Place 403.335.8719
 Aquatic Centre and Arena 403.335.7369

PUBLIC MEETINGS

REGULAR TOWN COUNCIL MEETING: Tuesday, January 28 at 7:00 pm.
 COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING: Tuesday, January 14 at 7:00 pm.
 MUNICIPAL PLANNING COMMISSION: Wednesday, January 8 at 4:30 pm.
 Unless otherwise noted, all meetings are held in Council Chambers at the Town Office.



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TOWN OF DIDSBURY HOLIDAY OFFICE CLOSURES

The Town Office, Didsbury Neighborhood Place, and Public Works will be closed December 24, 25, 26; open until noon on December 31, and closed all day on January 1. The Memorial Complex will be closed on December 25 & 26 and January 1. The Didsbury Aquatic Centre will be closed from December 23 - December 27 for scheduled maintenance.

Merry Christmas from Mayor Mousseau, Council and Staff!

Employment Opportunities

The Town of Didsbury is currently accepting applications for:

- Mountain View Parent LINK Facilitator - Part-time
- Lifeguard - Part-time
- Child Care Worker - Part-time

For more details and how to apply, please go to: www.didsbury.ca/town/careers

FREE Family Sponsored Swim

Sunday, December 29 from 5:00 pm - 7:00 pm



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DIDSBURY NEIGHBORHOOD PLACE UPCOMING PROGRAMS

- Board Game Mania - \$3.00 drop-in board games will resume again Wednesday January 8, 2014 from 3:30pm - 4:30pm
- Young Chefs - a morning of cooking for ages 5 - 8 held in the Multi-Purpose Room Kitchen. January 31, 2014 from 9:00am - 1:00pm. \$40.00 per child.

Didsbury Neighborhood Place at 403.335.8719 to register.

ROLLOUT CART PICK UP SCHEDULE

	December	January
Black Bin	31	2,14,15,16,28,29,30
Green Bin	Collection of green bins will start-up again in the spring of 2014	

- Please visit www.didsbury.ca/recycling to view pick-up zone map to determine what day your bin will be picked up.
- Recycling Blue Bins will be picked up every week on your collection day.

HOLIDAY WASTE COLLECTION SCHEDULE

For the week of December 23-27, 2013, waste collection will be:

- Blue bin collection on December 24 and 26. No collection on Dec. 25.
- Residents on a Wednesday pickup will be collected on Thursday instead.

For the week of December 30, 2013 to January 3, 2014, waste collection will be:

- Black and blue bin collection on December 31 and January 2. No collection on January 1, 2014.
- Residents on Wednesday pickup will be collected Thursday or Friday instead. Please leave your bins out from 7 am on Thursday until they are collected.

UTILITY E-BILL UPDATE

Effective immediately, the Town of Didsbury will not be issuing e-bills for utility statements. This is due to numerous program glitches with the program that produces and sends out our utility bills. When the e-billing does begin, we will be implementing the e-bills in a phased approach. Within the Town there are five routes. We will be beginning with Route One. Each person in Route One will be contacted and they will be asked if they would like an e-bill and we will be checking to ensure that the email address we have is correct. Only when we have Route One completely finished and with 100% accuracy, will we start Route Two. Thank you for your patience and understanding as we work to correct this issue.

PROPERTY TAX PAYMENT REMINDER

Any balances that remain outstanding on your property tax as of December 31, 2013, will be subject to a year-end penalty of 18%.

HOST FAMILIES NEEDED

As part of the Maple Leaf Exchange Program, students from Miki-Town will be visiting Didsbury again in March 2014. We are looking for families willing to open up their home to a Japanese student between the ages of 13 - 15, and let them experience life in Didsbury. Tentative dates for their stay in Didsbury is March 20 - 24, 2014.

If you are interested or would like more information, please contact CynDee Walden, Maple Leaf Exchange Coordinator at 403.335.7724 or by email at cwalden@didsbury.ca.

NEW DEVELOPMENT PERMIT APPLICATIONS

The following Development Permits have been issued for these proposed developments:

DP 13-81	1521 Walter Place	Deck - Existing
DP 13-82	17 Westheights Crescent	Deck - Existing

R2
 R1

Further information may be obtained at the Town Office, 2037 - 19 Avenue or by calling 335-3391. Persons wishing to appeal any of these decisions must do so in writing, with the appropriate fees, to the Secretary, Development Appeal Board, prior to 12:00 p.m. on January 7, 2014.

Dani Woodman - Development Officer

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Opinion

Editorial

Violence prevention a worthy community goal

A newly released provincial strategy aimed at reducing family violence includes plans aimed specifically at rural Alberta – while at the same time encouraging all residents to take an active role in protecting vulnerable community members.

The Family Violence Hurts Everyone: A Framework to End Family Violence in Alberta document was released following public consultation under a multi-stakeholder taskforce headed by Sandra Jansen, the associate minister of family and community safety.

If it ends up working as taskforce officials hope it will, this new framework will go a long way to making all Alberta communities safer and more family friendly.

The framework sets out government plans for addressing domestic violence over the next decade. It includes five strategic priorities to strengthen prevention and increase community input.

One strategic priority specifically outlines plans for non-urban communities where "special attention should be paid to rural and remote areas as these are traditionally underserved in terms of available resources."

Those plans include the following:

- Support local leadership and networks in rural and remote communities to prevent and respond to family violence by investing in local family violence prevention plans.
- Design a provincial workplace strategy to prevent family violence by working with a cross-section of Alberta employers, government and family violence experts.
- Work with community networks and post-secondary schools and researchers to host conferences, think-tanks and knowledge mobilization events to support the role of academics, practitioners, policy-makers and communities to advance family violence prevention throughout Alberta.

Implement ongoing family violence prevention training and cultural competencies for government workers, first responders, agencies working with children and youth and community agencies working in family violence prevention.

Another strategic priority calls for the promotion of family and community safety through "policy, legislation and public engagement."

Plans under that strategy include the following:

- Provide resources to community-based organizations to support complementary social media campaigns at the local level.

- Develop a multi-layered, integrated social engagement framework designed to create an environment that promotes healthy and respectful relationships.

"Family violence affects us all – and there are no simple solutions to this complex and pervasive issue," said Minister Jansen. "It is costly; the human costs attributed to family violence are immeasurable, as the impacts last a lifetime."

"It strains our public systems – health, policy, justice and social services all carry the burden. However, family violence is preventable."

Minister Jansen is right, domestic violence has negatively impacted far too many communities for far too long. Hopefully, 2014 will see things start to take a turn for the better, thanks in part to this new framework.



DAN SINGLETON



Commentary

Bill 46 will help create balanced budget

DEREK FILDEBRANDT

Alberta's government finally got it. There is no hope of a balanced budget in this province unless our government manages to control the spiralling costs of its government employees.

According to data obtained by the Canadian Taxpayers Federation (CTF) from Statistics Canada, the average weekly earnings of Alberta's provincial government employees have skyrocketed by 17 per cent in just the last five years. Add to this the government's own data showing that the average core provincial government employee costs taxpayers an average \$120,000 a year in salaries, wages and benefits.

While there are many deserving and hard-working members of the Alberta Union of Public Employees (AUPE), its leadership hasn't grasped the seriousness of the province's fiscal situation.

Rather than work with the government to address the very serious problems with the costs of public sector employee compensation, they walked away from the negotiating table.

And so the government did what few would have expected: they got tough. The government introduced Bill 45 and Bill 46, which should end any illusions about where they stand.

It's doubtful that Premier Redford and Finance Minister Doug Horner were spoiling for a fight with a constituency that many consider essential to their electoral coalition. But if Premier Redford is to have even a prayer of a chance of going into the next election with a balanced budget –

let alone meet her promise to do so before March 31 of 2014 – then she and the finance minister had to make a choice.

Bill 46, a.k.a. the Public Sector Salary Restraint Act is the government's response to AUPE walking away from negotiations. In the event that AUPE fails to come back to the table and strike a deal, the bill will legislate one in its place. It will provide no raise in the first year, a lump sum payout of \$875 for most employees in year two, and provide one per cent compounding raises in years three and four.

It's not quite hardball considering the generous state of affairs described above. When Ralph Klein won the premier's chair on a promise to wage war on the deficit, he negotiated a five per cent rollback in government wages and benefits.

The deal proposed in Bill 46 is a far cry from this, but it is nonetheless a serious attempt at holding the line on government employee compensation while the private sector catches up.

When the government and its unions fail to reach a deal, it traditionally goes to binding arbitration. Unfortunately, arbitration in the province has a bad history of awarding above-inflation salary increases, even in times of recession and deficits. There is no good reason for anyone but our elected legislators having the final say on the province's budget.

A reasonable compromise might have been to amend the legislation governing binding arbitration to reflect the fiscal realities of the province. Arbiters in the private sector generally do not

award raises when a company is hemorrhaging money or is unprofitable. Similarly, arbiters should be required to consider the ability of the government and taxpayers to pay within the current revenue and spending framework when they impose an agreement. Jim Wilson, an Ontario MPP has put forward a private member's bill that would do just this in Ontario.

Bill 45 (the Public Sector Services Continuation Act) is Bill 46's little brother. It modernizes existing penalties for illegal, wildcat strikes and from now on, government unions that strike illegally will be forced to compensate taxpayers by paying into a civil liability fund.

Bill 45 makes threatening a wildcat strike illegal, and this is where things get a bit sticky. Union members have legitimate concerns about the effect of this portion of the bill on their freedom of speech. However, the fines were last set in 1993 and they undoubtedly needed to be beefed up.

There is always the chance that bills 45 and 46 are a ruse meant to draw AUPE back to the table and accept a more generous deal. Sort of like being offered the choice of Buckle's cough medicine or Flintstones Vitamins.

Even if this is the government's line in the sand, we should be under no illusions that these measures on their own will balance the budget or stop Alberta's piling on debt, but they are a necessity if the government is to even attempt.

Derek Fildebrandt is the Alberta director of the Canadian Taxpayers Federation.

DIDSBURY
REVIEW

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Classified Content: reception@didsburygreatwest.ca
Website: www.didsburyreview.ca

Publisher: Murray Elliott
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Managing Editor: Lee Snelidson
Advertising: Joan Duval
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Editor/Reporter: Kevin Vink



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Christmas Greetings 2013

- Holiday messages
- Letters to Santa
- Traditions



"When they saw the star,
they rejoiced with
exceeding great joy."

- Matthew 2:10

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for the brightest
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Dear Santa
I am 6 years old
I have a good
this year
Please bring me an iPod
Please and thank you
Love
Maddi




Dear Santa
I am 6 years
old.
I have been good this
year. Please bring me
an iPod and Slippers.
I wish for joy and
Peace.
Love
Hanna

Dear Santa,
I am 6
years old.
this year
please bring me
a \$100 dollars
and the giant
macaron Kit
from Justie
I wish for joy
hope and happy
Love,
Natalie




We Wish You
A Warm &
Joyous Christmas!

The Doctors & Staff



forsight
visioncentre

Dr. Rod Adams - Optometrist
Dr. Jeff Waddell

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Once upon a time there was a Christmas tree

There are some traditions that we take so much for granted that we never reflect on their origin or their meaning. This includes the story of the Christmas tree. Every year, millions of parents and children around the world decorate their Christmas trees without really knowing the history of this custom.

Even these days, we follow traditions whose history we know nothing of, simply to continue the customs passed on to us by our parents. However, it can be really interesting to dig just a little bit to gain some understanding of the meaning behind all these little

rituals.

This year, take the time to rediscover all your favourite Christmas classics.

Christmas when they saw a ballet, such as The Nutcracker or Peter Pan; a spectacular visual and musical extravaganza that the whole family will love and talk about for years to come.

This year, take the time to rediscover all your favourite Christmas classics. Whether they're sung, danced or played by an orchestra, these vibrant and joyous holiday compositions will touch a sensitive cord in the hearts of young and old alike.

See Tree on p. 9

From our **Home** to yours
Happy Holidays
All the best for 2014
Dennis, Mary, Corinna, Kurt, Family & Staff



Home
hardware
Didsbury

DICK'S TRUCKING LTD



Merry Christmas from Randy, Karie
& all the staff

Didsbury
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Christmas Message




Christmas is an exciting, festive time of the year. It is a time to come together with family and friends.

May you have peace, joy and love this holiday season. May the spirit of Christmas and the magic of this wonderful season be with you and your loved ones throughout the holidays and in the New Year.

My wife Carol and I would like to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas along with prosperity, good health and happiness in the New Year.

Bruce Rowe
MLA, Olds-Didsbury-Three Hills

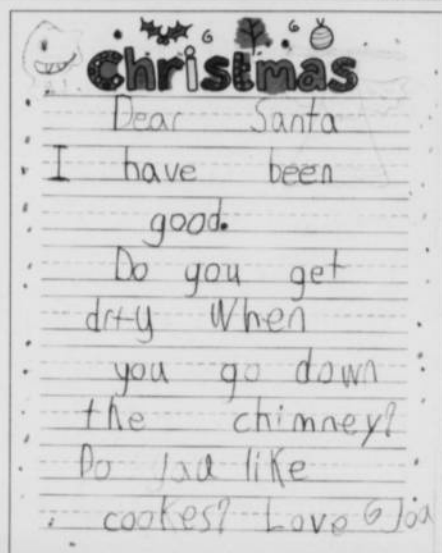
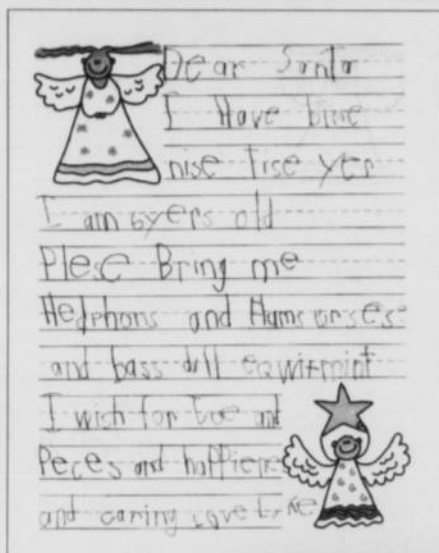


"Glory to God in the
highest, and on earth
peace, good will
toward men"

We'd like to join you and your family
in singing His praises, as we share
the spirit of this holy season

**GRASSE LUMBER
SALES LTD.**

Lowell, Heidi,
Lukas, Levi & Staff
www.grasselumber.com



Tree

Continued from p. 8

It was the Celts who first decorated trees to celebrate the winter solstice on December 24. The tree they chose to decorate with various flowers and fruits, however, was the spruce. It was in Alsace, in 1521, that the fir tree was first chosen to celebrate Christmas. But, rather than the whole tree, it was the freshly-cut branches that were the most appreciated, filling the thatched cottages with their scent. About 20 years later, in the town of Selestat, Alsace,

the entire tree started to be used for Christmas celebrations.

However, the Catholic Church still considered this a pagan ritual and so it was mainly Protestants who continued to hon-

our this custom. It was only during the XIX century that the tradition of the Christmas tree spread rapidly throughout Europe and across the Atlantic to North America.



Full photo

Management and staff would like to extend our best wishes for the holidays. May you have many wonderful moments with friends and family this Christmas and may the New Year bring great happiness to you all.



DIDSBURY
REVIEW
335-3301

Wishing everyone all the best this Holiday Season and throughout the New Year! Many thanks to all for your continued patronage!

From the Management & Staff

DIDSBURY AG FOODS
HOLIDAY HOURS

Dec 24 8-6	Dec 27 8-9	Dec 30 8-9
Dec 25 CLOSED	Dec 28 8-6	Dec 31 8-6
Dec 26 8-5	Dec 29 8-6	Jan 1 8-5

From Our Family To Yours

Our sincere best wishes for a sparkling holiday season. Thank you for giving us an extra reason to celebrate!

From Brad, Craig, Mike, Brent, Laura & Darren

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403-335-3349

JOY,
LOVE,
HEALTH,
HARMONY,
GOOD FORTUNE,
PEACE ON EARTH

Wishing you & yours all the blessing of this special time of year.
We really appreciate your business.
Thanks!

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GTA
335-4814

2002 - 22 Ave. Didsbury
403-335-4814

Christmas

Dear Santa,

My name is Tyshia. Thank you for the gifts last year. For Christmas I would like goateestuff. Could you please bring a candle for my mom? How do you get down all the chimney with out getting stuck?

From Tyshia

Christmas

Dear Santa,

My name is Holden. I am 7 years old. Thank you for gezin me a LAGO set last year for Christmas. I would like a stufy for Christmas.

From Holden

Christmas

Dear Santa,

My name is zach. Thank you for the gifts last year. For Christmas I would like a new xbox game. How de you get past the dogs?

From zach

Fun games for a fun Christmas

Is your annual Christmas party about as exciting as a funeral? Here are a few suggestions for games that are sure to put the fun back into the festive season.

The yes/no game
Preparation: give five clothes pins to each guest, which they will attach to their clothing.
Goal: throughout the evening, avoid saying either "yes" or "no" in your conversations,

at the risk of losing a peg to the person who tricked you into saying either one.
Winner: the last person to have one peg remaining.

Pass the parcel

Preparation: wrap up a gift with several layers of paper.

Goal: sitting in a circle, each participant has a turn rolling the die until someone gets a "6". The lucky one must then quickly put on a pair of oven mitts (a hat and scarf are optional) and try to unwrap the gift until someone else rolls a "6" and so on.

Winner: the one who succeeds in unwrapping the gift.

Tip: when wrapping, be sure to use lots of boxes and plastic bags and excessive amounts of tape!

Mystery jar

Preparation: fill a glass jar (or any other transparent container) with candies.

Goal: without them being able to touch it, ask guests to write down their guess at the number of candies in the jar.

Winner: the one who guesses the closest number to the answer. This person also wins the great pleasure of sampling the goodies!

Tip: choose candies of varying sizes, shapes, and colours. Don't forget to count them before closing the jar!

Old favourites such as charades are still suitable for all occasions and all age groups. And don't forget another "new" classic: karaoke! Lots of fun guaranteed!

Didsbury Massage & Wellness Centre

Wishing all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from all the staff at Didsbury Massage and Wellness Centre.

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*The gift of love.
The gift of peace.
The gift of happiness.
May all these be yours at Christmas.*



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Merry Christmas!
We look forward to doing business with you in 2014!



**To all our customers & friends.
Thank you for your continued support. It is always our pleasure to serve you.**

DIDSBURY VALUE DRUG MART

Brad & Dionne Blatz and staff



Reindeer are not all red-nosed Rudolphs

While Rudolph might be the most famous reindeer, there remains no documented evidence of a red-nosed reindeer guiding Santa's sleigh on an especially stormy Christmas Eve.

But just because no one has yet to find the real Rudolph, that doesn't mean we don't know a few things about Santa's sled buddies.

- Reindeer are also known as Caribou in North America.

- Females generally weigh between 170 to 260 lbs., while males are often much larger, weighing as little as 200 lbs. but as much as 460 lbs.

- Reindeer reside in both the Arctic and Subarctic, and hunting of wild reindeer and herding of semi-

domesticated reindeer is important to several Arctic and Subarctic people.

- Reindeer fur can vary considerably. In northern populations,

reindeer tend to have white fur, while southern populations are darker in color.

- Reindeer size can also vary depending on location, as south-

ern reindeer populations tend to be larger than their northern counterparts.

- In most reindeer populations, both males and females

grow antlers. Among deer, reindeer have the largest antlers in relation to body size.

- Males often battle with each other by locking antlers for the

right to mate with certain females.

- During migration, some reindeer reach speeds of 37 to 50 miles per hour. GG10B077



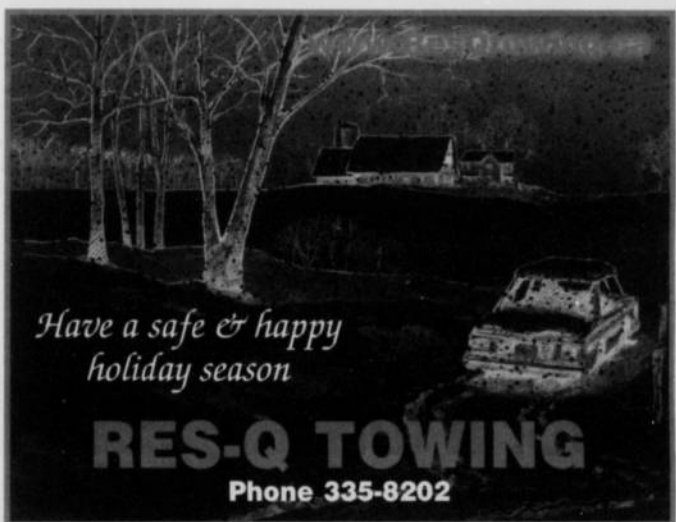
"Do you hear what I hear?"

"Do you hear what I hear?"

Balance Hearing Care Ltd.

wishes you all the joys of the holiday season



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Have a safe & happy holiday season

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CINDY TIPPE
Associate

May you enjoy all the best of the Christmas season with family, friends and neighbours.

Thanks to my clients this past year - you are why I enjoy what I do.

Didsbury District Health Services Palliative Care Committee in Partnership with the Rosebud Health Foundation would like to Thank Everyone who donated to 2013 The Tree of Hope.

Your donations have made it possible to enhance the comfort and quality of care provided to those individuals in our communities who require palliative care. We also appreciated all the Volunteers that assisted with the collection of donations and the tree lighting services: Dawna Faryna, Lorraine Aarsby, Marylou Cuming, David Cuming,

Eileen Hamilton, Pastor Rob Mohns, Penny Farley, Kathy Hutcheon, Mary Hughes,

Lil Hunt, Doreen Emary, Judy Sheehan, Charlie Parslow

Thank You, Merry Christmas and the Best in the New Year!

GREETING OF HOPE ...

Rus
John
Gwen & Micky Earle
All Those Suffering at This Time
Phyllis Campbell
Naomi, Todd, Jo
Cathy Burnside
Amanda phripp
Mike Phripp
Mary Clapperton
Margaret & Larry Gualtre
Joan Gross
Pat & Marilyn Foisy
Karen Betteridge
Leo Gross
Morris Family
Daniel Colucci
Capcik Family
Donna Hannah
Jack & Alex Scrimger
Parker
Daniel Bishop - Fowler
Irene Doucette
Tanya Sayer
Gordon Phillips
Gene Musgrove

IN MEMORY OF ...

Kevin Hamilton
Donna & Ron Liesemer
Doris Hughes
Randy Ross
Andy Ross
Debbie Ross
Krissey Ross
Annabel Parslow
Gail Williams
Steven Clark
Lorne
Frank & Hilda Martin
Crystal Davis (Daughter of Ralph & Gail Davis)
Carla Neyrink
Pete Van Tighem
Eunice Muni
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Kathryn Harder
Cornelius Harder
John Harder
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Mel & Peggy Morrison
Karen Campbell
Ruth & Rex Rasmussen
Conn & Lena Nicoll
Poppa
Joan Ward
Lena Mousseau
George Campbell
Ira Wisener
Helen Lane
Carol Burnett
John Mary Merv
Neil Kigsby
Bill Rigsby
John Barlow

Betty Barlow
Richard Barlow
Teresa Werkmann
Doug Mudry
Karen Chernow
Louise Dupont
Robert Austin
Pearl
Carmen Tomey
Ted Nelson
Betty Fiddler
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Kent Milljour
Russell Lillian
Bernice Fulberth
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Joe Cepcik
KristenCairdner
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Horace & Brian Tiff

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Doris Irwin
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Helen Bischke
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Eric Hemming
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Alvin Tippe

Eva Blaine
Elsie Volker
Stephen Volker
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Ann Fulton
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Georgina Luft
Elizabeth Luft
Bill & Dolly Schumaker
Keith Krebs
Kenneth N Sherick
Jim Yousph
Ron Becker
Earl & Hilda Kinsley
Fred, Rob & Jackie Rion

Christmas

Dear Santa

I have been very good
I have not been fighting
with my brother. is your
red how much reindeer
Do you have. can I please
have an American Girl
doll that is all I want.
Have a merry Christmas
Santa from Sarah

www.ActiveKids.ca or Keeping Kids Busy

Christmas

Dear Santa,

I have been good! I have
been helpful to my mom!
has anyone seen you? I
would like: ipod, nerf gun
that fires bullets up
to 75 feet, super mario
brothers for my 2 dear
gun that fires 2 bullets
at the


www.ActiveKids.ca or Keeping Kids Busy

Dear Santa

I have been
nice this year
I am 6 years old
Please Bring me
Hefephons and Hums-wases
and bass ball equipment
I wish for love and
Pecies and hafficks
and caring love from

www.ActiveKids.ca or Keeping Kids Busy

Happy Holidays



Here's hoping your Christmas is sheer purr-fec-tion! It's been great having you as our customer.

Rick, Lynn, Bill, Justin, Kevin, Bob, & Rolf at

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Merry Christmas

THANK YOU TO OUR FABULOUS CUSTOMERS & FRIENDS FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT

Ulla-la BOUTIQUE


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Didsbury, Alberta (403) 335-0014



HANG ON. IT'S ALMOST CHRISTMAS!

With best wishes and gratitude from all of us to all of you.

Roy D. Shellnutt & Staff
Criminal Law Office



A merry Christmas to You

He's Still Found by Those Who Seek Him

This Christmas
May His Light
Touch your heart with healing
And your life with Blessing
As they envelope you in love
All the days of the New Year

Shirley Portingale
Travel Professionals International

Holly's Christmas tradition

Holly has been used since the days of the early Pagans as a decoration for midwinter festivities, when it was brought into homes to keep evil spirits away.

The ancient Romans also believed that holly prickles drove away evil spirits, and it held a place of honor at December festivals dedicated to the god Saturn.

To avoid persecution during the Roman pagan Saturnalia festival, early Christians would participate in the tradition of hanging evil-repelling holly on their homes to appear like the masses. Eventually as the number of Christians grew, the tradition became less of a pagan one and more associated with Christians and Christmas.

Some people have inferred that holly and its prickly edges is symbolic of the crown of thorns Jesus wore at his crucifixion, with the red berries representing blood.



Best wishes for a bright and beautiful holiday season. From Judy and Staff

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*MERRY
CHRISTMAS*

from Rick,
Dena, James,
Joel & Tyler

Dicks Auto
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*Merry Christmas
and All the Best
for the Upcoming
Season.*

*With Many
Thanks to All of
Our Clients for
Your Support in 2013.*

**M & H MARTINSON
& HARDER
LAW OFFICE**

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We'd like to join you and your family in giving thanks for the miracle of Christmas, and wish you all a joyous and meaningful holiday season.

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*Merry Christmas
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Phone: (403)335-3301 Fax: (403)335-8143

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Deadlines: Friday - 12 noon, Holiday weekends - Thursday 12 noon.

All marketplace ads must be pre-paid.

Visa and Mastercard accepted by phone.



Marketplace

100. Obituaries 100. Obituaries

McPEEK, Sandra



Sandra Hannah McPeek passed away at Rosefield Centre in Innisfail, Alberta on Wednesday, December 11, 2013 at the age of 70 years. Sandra is lovingly remembered by her family; mother, Eldora; brother, Gary; sister, Darlene Rousch; nieces, Susan Rousch and Carol Rousch; nephew, Johnny Rousch and family. Sandra is predeceased by her father, William; sister-in-law, Elizabeth and her daughter, Deborah. A Private Family Burial at Didsbury Cemetery has occurred. Messages of condolence may be left for the family at www.myalternatives.ca.



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110. In Memoriam 110. In Memoriam

JARROD DESROCHES

November 1981 -
 December 2011

I said a prayer for you today
 and know god
 must have heard;
 I felt the answer in my heart
 Although he spoke
 not a word.

I didn't ask for wealth or fame
 I knew you wouldn't mind;
 I asked for priceless
 treasures rare
 Of a more lasting kind.

I prayed that He'd be near
 to you
 Now that you've gone away,
 To grant you all of His
 blessings
 And His light to show the way.

I asked for happiness for you
 In all things great and small;
 But that you'd know His
 loving care
 I prayed for most of all.

Lovingly remembered and sadly missed:
 Dad, Mom, Jordan, Luke, Mel, Mark and son Liam.

190. Announcements 190. Announcements

1005. Help Wanted

BOOKKEEPER REQUIRED
 -Small Construction Company between Carstairs and Crossfield looking for a part time bookkeeper. Responsibilities include payroll, A/P, A/R, and coordinating with the accountants. Quickbooks experience is an asset.
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STAY ALERT

110. In Memoriam 110. In Memoriam

Nelson - Teddy Ross December 23, 1992

Treasured memories never die
 as years roll on and days pass by.
 Your loving memory
 I'll always keep.

Lovingly remembered
 by your wife and
 best friend Jessie

St. Anthony's Catholic Church
 Welcome to our Annual
Christmas Eve Family Mass
Tuesday December 24,
2013 at 8 pm.
Multipurpose Room.
Didsbury Memorial Complex.

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 to Emergency Vehicles

A message from the
 John Peterson Memorial Fund



www.god.ca/truthday



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ON VIRTUALLY ALL OF OUR MOST POPULAR MODELS

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in manufacturer
rebates and \$1,715
freight and air tax.

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Front bucket seats. Rear-window defroster.
Privacy glass. **AND MUCH MORE.**



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Ford vehicles with 6-month
pre-installed subscription.

NOTE: BUYERS READ THE LEGAL COPY. Vehicles may be shown with optional equipment. Dealer may sell or lease for less. Limited time offers. Offers only valid at participating dealers. Retail offers may be cancelled or changed at any time without notice. Dealer order or transfer may be required as inventory may vary by dealer. See your Ford Dealer for complete details or call the Ford Customer Relationship Centre at 1-800-565-3673. For factory orders, a customer may either have advantage of eligible Ford retail customer promotional incentives/offers available at the time of vehicle factory order or time of vehicle delivery, but not both or combinations thereof. Retail offers not combinable with any C/PAP/GP or Daily Rental Incentives, the Commercial Light Program or the Commercial Fleet Incentive Program (CFIP). 19th-29th December 16 - 29, 2013, receive 0% APR purchase financing on new 2014 Ford models including C-MAX, Mustang Shelby and RDS-201, Flex, Explorer, Expedition, Transit Connect, E-Series, F-150 Regular Cab XL 4x4 (Value Leader), F-350 to F-550, and medium truck for up to 60 months, to qualified retail customers, on approved credit (GAC) from Ford Credit. Not all buyers will qualify for the lowest interest rate. Example: \$25,000 purchase financed at 0% APR for 48/60/72 months, monthly payment is \$520 R/M \$416.66/ \$347.22, cost of borrowing is \$0 or APR of 0% and total to be repaid is \$25,000. Taxes payable on full amount at purchase price after Manufacturer Rebate deducted. Bi-weekly payments are only available using a customer related PC Internet Banking or Phone Pay system through the customer's own bank (if offered by that financial institution). The customer is required to sign a monthly payment contract with a first payment date one month from the contract date and to ensure that the total monthly payment occurs by the payment due date. Bi-weekly payments can be made by making payments equivalent to the sum of 12 monthly payments divided by 26 bi-weekly periods every five weeks commencing on the contract date. Dealer may sell for less. Offers vary by model and not all combinations will apply. *Purchase a new 2014 Focus S Sedan/2014 Escape S FWD with 2.5L engine for \$17,449/\$24,664 after Manufacturer Rebate of \$2,750 is deducted. Taxes payable on full amount of purchase price after total Manufacturer Rebate has been deducted. Offers include freight and air tax of \$1,665/\$1,715 but exclude optional features, administration and registration fees (administration fees may vary by dealer), fuel tax charge and all applicable taxes. Manufacturer Rebates are not combinable with any fleet consumer incentives. †Offer only valid from December 3, 2013 to January 31, 2014 (the "Offer Period") to resident Canadians with an eligible Costco membership on or before November 30, 2013 who purchase or lease of a new 2013/2014 Ford (including Focus, C-MAX, Explorer, Expedition, Transit Connect, E-Series and Medium Truck) or Lincoln vehicle (such as "Eligible Vehicle"). Limit one (1) offer per each Eligible Vehicle purchase or lease, up to a maximum of two (2) separate Eligible Vehicle sales per Costco Membership Number. Offer is transferable to person domiciled with an eligible Costco member. Applicable taxes calculated before GST \$1,000 offer is deducted. **Estimated fuel consumption ratings for 2014 Focus S 2.0, 14.5/100km (36MPG City, 5.5L/100km (51MPG HWY) / 2014 Escape FWD 2.5L, 14.6/100km (30MPG City, 6.3L/100km (45MPG HWY) / 2014 F-150 4x4 5.0L, 10.6L/100km (27MPG HWY). Fuel consumption ratings based on Transport Canada approved test methods. Actual fuel consumption will vary based on road conditions, vehicle loading, vehicle condition, vehicle equipment, and driving habits. ††Claim based on analysis by Ford of Poll global new registration for CY2012 for a single corporate which excludes resold vehicles, private dealerships or other vehicle nameplate versions. †††Based on R. L. Polk, Canada, Inc. Total New Registration data for Full Size Pickups per Ford Segmentation as of 1/10 September 30, 2013. ††Registered trademark of Price Costco International, Inc. used under license. ©2013 Sirius Canada Inc. "SiriusXM" the SiriusXM logo, channel names and logos are trademarks of SiriusXM Radio Inc. and are used under license. ©2013 Ford Motor Company of Canada, Limited. All rights reserved.

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But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger."



Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests."

Luke 2: 10 - 14

Christmas is a Season of Joy

Luke 2: 7-15